



An Analysis of Maya Angelou's Poetry Entitled "Stil I rise"

Arin Nurzalinda
University of Bengkulu
Arin.nurzalinda12345@gmail.com

Abstract

Maya Angelou is a poet and author who is concerned about the position of black women and wishes to improve it. In her writings, such as the poem "Still I Rise," it can be noticed. In this poem, Maya Angelou defines black feminism and encourages black women to realize their full potential. The author went through various processes to complete the analysis. Firstly, the author did a close study of the poems to gain a better understanding of them, particularly in regards to black feminism. Secondly, The author then went over the sources in detail. After acquiring all of the essential data, the author continued to assess the difficulties using, simile, metaphor, repetition, symbol, tone, and also blackfeminism. The writer was able to evaluate the poems by paraphrasing them word for word. Thirdly, after examining the poetry, the author researched the concept of black feminism based on a survey of black feminism in the United States. The final step was to draw a conclusion based on the findings of the analysis. In this inquiry, feminist principles were used. The method was utilized to look into the predicament of black women who rise up as a result of oppression. According to the investigation's results, there is a struggle between black women and white people, both male and female, as well as black males in "Still I Rise." The abuse of black women by white people who see them as slaves, as well as the denigration they experience from black men, causes them to suffer. As a result, black women will go to great lengths to rescue themselves from white and black male domination. A tension exists between white and black women (between ugly and beauty). The extent of black feminism and an assessment of black feminism in the United States, according to the scope of black feminism and an assessment of black feminism in the United States, "Still I Rise" depicts black women fighting enslavement and prejudice, whereas represents self-assured black women seeking to challenge society's beauty standard.

Keywords: Poetry, Black Feminism, Maya Angelou.

Introduction,

Feminism has a branch called Black Feminism. To understand what black feminism is, we must first understand what feminism is. Feminism is defined as a phrase coined by feminists to describe the feminist philosophy of female superiority. Furthermore, feminism is defined as a concept that advocates for women to have the same rights as men, as well as an ideology of social revolution that promotes social equality between men and women. The phrase Black Feminism refers to a desire for a congruent and progressive vision of social justice based on Black women's historical and ongoing struggles against racial and gender oppression at home, at work, in their communities, and, more broadly, in the dominant culture.

According to Myrdal (1944) In the history of the women's movement, there was a Black women's movement, particularly in the United States. Black women have been at the bottom of the social hierarchy since slavery, coming in fourth after African American men. Black women were

discriminated against in every aspect of life. Not only did Black women fight feminism, but they also battled racism.

Poem is a sort of abstract work that underlines mood, other complex examples of sound and symbolism, and the various ways that words can show meaning, regardless of whether spoken or composed. Poesis is a Greek word that signifies "to make" or "to make" (Volkman, 2005). A sonnet, as per Griffith, is an interesting scholarly work in that it can uncover more than whatever the poetry accepts. Perusing a sonnet requires a significant degree of focus on the grounds that the peruser should choose points of interest, making the sonnet more exceptional than different works (Griffith, 2006)

"An Inquiry into Maya Angelou's Poetry" says that recorded as a hard copy sonnets, a female writer typically makes close connection between the possibility of heartfelt and women's liberation however Maya Angelou has her own style recorded as a hard copy her sonnets. She doesn't just utilize the dynamic changing and adjusted state of the science personality yet in addition utilizes the reality of her own particular being. She accentuates the significance of person circumstance. The heartfelt idea that an author writes in light of inside goals go connected at the hip with the thought of woman's rights in her verse. Be that as it may, Angelou is an exemption since she not just focuses to dynamic moving and fluctuant state of all cognizant held science personality yet additionally the reality of her own particular being. She generally lays extraordinary accentuation upon the significance of individual circumstance particularly regarding the independence of lady (Ghani and Naz, 2004)

In Modern American Women Writers, Joanne Braxton states: "Readers of her poetry appreciate its rhythm, lyric imagery, and realism. She wants to say that the people who read Angelou's work include both critics and lay readers, and she has achieved a measure of true sainthood in their eyes by transcending brutal racism, sexual abuse, and poverty to become one of America's most celebrated(Braxton:1991)

The author is keen on breaking down Maya Angelou's sonnets in light of the fact that the author is interested to think about the dark woman's rights she battled for in the sonnets "Still I Rise", and it is trusted that this review might give commitment to advance the woman's rights investigation particularly about dark women's liberation on the sonnets. It is seen that despite the fact that white women's activist have asked the battled against subjugation, indeed, they can not put themselves equivalent with individuals of color especially people of color.

Besides, for white women's activist, racial bias and sexual orientation segregation is two distinct things that are not identified with each other. They dismissed servitude toward individuals of color; any other way, they can not acknowledge that individuals of color are situated above them in the American culture (Madsen, 2000).the writer is keen on examining Maya Angelou's sonnets on the grounds that the writer is interested to think about the dark women's liberation she battled for in the sonnets "Still I Rise", it is trusted that this review might give commitment to advance the women's liberation examination particularly about dark woman's rights on the sonnets.

Research Methodology

"Still I Rise", which comprises of 8 refrains and 43 lines, for the most part tells about the soul going to ascend . Those sonnets tell about the soul to ascend and about the certain lady, however they additionally talk about the Black ladies albeit the sonnets don't state anything unequivocally yet their implied messages can be moderately straightforward.

Since the sonnets are about individuals of color, it is suitable to move toward it through women's activist scholarly analysis. Women's activist scholarly analysis passes the idea that ladies likewise have a voice to talk about their life; the injustice they get as ladies.

The essential target is to guarantee everybody that artistic is certainly not a male ruled region; that crafted by writing are not a selective media for men to share their accounts. Through writing, the existence of ladies with each of the perspectives can be dissected. This is an investigation of ladies' voice, in spite of her race, class, and culture, with the intend to lessen the term 'second sex' qualified for ladies.

Critical Approaches to Literature states: Notwithstanding their variety, the women's activist pundits for the most part concur that their objectives are to uncover male centric premises and coming about biases, to advance revelation what's more, reexamination of writing by ladies, and to look at social, social, and psychosexual setting of writing and abstract analysis. Women's activist pundits thusly concentrate on sexual, social and policy centered issues once thought to be "outside" the investigation of writing (Guerin 1999). Accordingly, the methodology is applied in investigating the state of people of color who are separated and mistreated in the sonnets. White men, people of color, white ladies, what's more, the general public mistreat them. The persecution makes individuals of color rise battling for their voice.

The writer employs the library research as the method of study. The primary source used in this paper is mostly gained from the poems, "Still I Rise" as the main data. The secondary sources are mostly taken from Black American Women Writing: A Quilt of Many Colors (1994), and Black Feminism Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and The Politics of Empowerment (2000).

Others data are obtained from the internet and encyclopedias which contain related information required to analyze this paper. The research took some steps to answer the problems. The first step was to read and study some theories on symbol, metaphor, simile, repetition, tone, and black feminism.

Then, the writer read and reread deeper the poems, "Still I Rise" as the primary data of the research until the writer got what writer wanted to say the meaning by reading and having the interpretation of word per word.

Next, the writer answered the first problem by analyzing the symbol, metaphor and simile, repetition, tone, and about black feminism in "Still I Rise" and "Phenomenal Woman". The symbol, metaphor and simile, repetition, tone were analyzed by discussing word per word that indicates those elements and then the writer interprets those words. It was done to answer the first problem. Then, to answer the second problem, the writer related the first problem that had already been answered to black feminism theory and review on black feminism history in the U.S. Finally, the conclusion could be drawn from the analysis.

Findings and Discussion,

Findings

Maya Angelou's sonnets that will be investigated that is "Still I Rise". The sonnets will be investigated by a few natural components: comparison, analogy, image, reiteration, tone; and dark women's liberation. Hypotheses on analogy are expected to direct the examination of „figurative language that is utilized by Maya Angelou in "Still Rise", though the hypothesis on comparison is expected to portray further the metaphor that is utilized by Maya Angelou in "Still I Rise". Hypothesis on redundancy is utilized to investigate the words or expressions that are rehashed in "Still I Rise". Speculations on tone are utilized as direction to know Maya Angelou's disposition. The hypotheses referenced above are utilized to make the reward of the sonnets are more obvious. Hypothesis on dark women's liberation is required as ground of the examination, in light of the fact that the investigation generally discusses dark woman's rights.

1. "Still I Rise"

In this sonnet, Maya Angelou needs to tell about her endurance, about her battle, about her grit against something. It is said against something in light of the fact that in first refrain, it is as yet obscured. She says that she permits somebody to record a set of experiences about her. In line 2, on the off chance that somebody enlightens something concerning her, those are huge falsehoods on the grounds that the facts have been bent to lies. She acknowledges that somebody needs to place her in the past with false history.

You may write me down in history (1)

With your bitter, twisted lies, (2)

She needs to say that she permits somebody to treat her awful. The thought in lines 1 to 3 is about underestimation and contempt of somebody to Maya Angelou. Despite the fact that she is thought little of and despised, she doesn't surrender and she remains positive. It shows up in what she says in line 4 that she will rise in every case still. The words 'like dust' are utilized as simile to portray the enthusiastic of her ascent. She portrays her ascent profoundly like residue; the residue will fly higher and uninhibitedly and will be rising in case it is passed up the breeze.

You may trod me in the very dirt (3)

But still, like dust, I'll rise. (4)

Then in the second stanza, Angelou starts to ask question to somebody for what valid reason she is thought little of and loathed. She finds out if her 'cheekiness' makes somebody who abhors her annoyed. The word 'sassiness' contains uncertain importance. As per Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 'cheeky' signifies discourteous or extending absence of regard and it likewise implies exuberant and popular.

The two implications are pertinent, in case they are associated to the first stanza. The understanding of first importance is after what she has experienced in first verse, Maya Angelou responds with outrage by inquiring, "Does Angelou's sassiness upset someone?" It is perhaps Angelou's lack of respect of someone makes someone upset. Another interpretation is in the second stanza Maya Angelou asks unquestionably whether somebody upset or begrudges her since she is in vogue and exuberant.

Does my sassiness upset you? (5)

In line 6, Maya Angelou asks again to someone why he or she affects her in unpleasant way with sad feeling and without hope.

Why are you beset with gloom? (6)

In case Angelou's inquiry in line 6 is associated with her self-addressed inquiry in line 7 what's more, 8, it contains uncertain understanding. The principal translation is regardless of how hard somebody loathes her; it will be futile in light of the fact that she will remain glad and hopeful. In spite of the fact that somebody compromises her and the danger might dishearten her, she is as yet cheerful. In line 7, the comparison is utilized once more. She is glad as though she has truckload of cash since she discovers the oil wells. Since she has bounty oils in the wells, she siphons it and pours it in the front room. She inquires "For what reason do you plague me with anguish?", and she clarifies that what somebody does is futile on the grounds that she will in any case be cheerful "in light of the fact that I walk joyfully like I have oil wells". Jealousy is the second understanding of the motivation behind why somebody plagues her with desolate. Somebody begrudges her on the grounds that Angelou strolls joyfully as though she is rich lady who simply get oil wells. She inquires "for what reason would you say you are assailed me with the unhappiness? Is this is on the grounds that I walk joyfully like I have oil wells" and in view of that you envy me.

Why are you beset with gloom? (6)

'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells (7)

Pumping in my living room. (8)

In the accompanying, Maya Angelou clarifies with the analogy how high she needs to rise. She clarifies that she will ascend exceptionally high like moon and sun. In line 11, she adds that she will ascend exceptionally high like expectations that individuals at any point wish. An expectation in

certain manner is constantly trailed by high craving, and as per Angelou, it is the longing that springs high.

Just like moons and like suns, (9)

With the certainty of tides, (10)

Just like hopes springing high, (11)

Still I'll rise. (12)

The following verse clarifies Angelou's opinion on what somebody anticipates from her. She feels that somebody truly needs her to be broken, to see her frantic furthermore, fall with bowed head and eyes. Somebody imagines that Angelou doesn't have guts. Somebody needs her to lose and neglect to rise like what Maya Angelou does. Somebody needs her to be frail due to her cries. Maya Angelou picks some negative words to depict somebody's scorn towards her, for example, 'broken', 'debilitated', 'tear', 'cries' and 'heartfelt', and miserable body motions like 'bowed head', 'brought down eyes', 'shoulders tumbling down' which mean communicating or causing profound or tragic inclination.

Did you want to see me broken? (13)

Bowed head and lowered eyes? (14)

Shoulders falling down like teardrops. (15)

Weakened by my soulful cries. (16)

That question refers to somebody again whether her predominance annoys her. From this assertion, we start to realize that as indicated by her somebody begrudges her since she certainly makes reference to about 'haughtiness' which as per Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary implies showing the conviction that one is better than others and this 'haughtiness' makes somebody lack of regard and desirous of Angelou. In line 18, Angelou states skeptically that somebody doesn't need to approach in a serious way Angelou's haughtiness since how somebody will deal with her will be futile. She is simply cheerful and giggles readily as though she has tracked down the gold mines in her own back yard. Once more, she utilizes simile.

Does my haughtiness offend you? (17)

Don't you take it awful hard (18)

'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines (19)

Diggin' in my own back yard. (20)

Maya Angelou truly doesn't mind with how somebody deals with her. She says in 6th verse that she permits somebody to do everything to make her down. She utilizes representation in lines 21, 22 and 23. In line 21, the expression "shoot me with your words" is deciphered as slander, or saying

some falsehood or undesirable with regards to her. Angelou permits somebody saying false or upsetting thing regarding her. You might shoot me with your words, (21) The expression in line 22 "cut me with your eyes" is interpreas looking with an odd, upsetting look which shows contempt and jealousy. Angelou permits somebody looking her in upsetting manner.

Out of the huts of history's shame (29)
I rise (30)
Up from a past that's rooted in pain (31)
I rise (32)
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide, (33)
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide. (34)
Leaving behind nights of terror and fear (35)
I rise (36)
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear (37)
I rise (38)
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave, (39)
I am the dream and the hope of the slave. (40)
I rise (41)
I rise (42)
I rise. (43)

She is brimming with soul each time she rehashes state 'I ascend' after her enlivening explanations, as show up in eighth refrain. She needs to rise since she feels mistreated of somebody and thus, she will rise.

Discussion

To have striking end, it is better for the author to specify once more the issue details that have been broke down. The main issue asks what Maya Angelou's "Still I Rise" talk about. First issue is examined by summarizing word per word. Words that contain representation, comparison, reiteration, and image show up in these sonnets. The author additionally examines the tone of these sonnets to know the temperament of Maya Angelou in each sonnet. Second issue gets some information about the depiction of Black women's liberation in Maya Angelou's "Still I Rise". In noting the subsequent issue, the author gives the perusers demonstrates that Black women's liberation truly exists in this sonnets by utilizing audit of dark woman's rights history in the U.S. to help the investigation of first issue.

Maya Angelou utilizes many expressions that contains metaphor in "Still I Rise". Maya Angelou utilizes the comparison before she says that she will be ascend to portray the energetic of her ascent, and she utilizes the analogy after she effectively communicates how cheerful she is. She utilizes allegory in "Still I Rise" to disclose white men's hate to individuals of color, and with the disdain white men can successfully hurt individuals of color who can just acknowledge and can not

help it. In different lines, illustration exists to tell that she has risen and leaving her terrible history (subjugation and separation person of color has endured), embracing current circumstances and failing to remember her past.

Analogy is additionally used to portray that individual of color is solid and fantastic. Reiteration in "Still I Rise" shows that Maya Angelou needs to stress the soul of individuals of color to rise. Tone in "Still I Rise" shows that Maya Angelou's mind-set is loaded with soul to request that people of color rise. Emblematic word is missing in "Still I Rise".

The investigation word per word in "Still I Rise" drives the peruser to the data that there is a conflict among individuals of color versus white individuals (both male and female) and individuals of color. Individuals of color endure as a result of awful treatment of white individuals who think about them as slave, and therefore, people of color would effectively ascend from white men's abuse. Individuals of color truly disparage them and they don't see the value in people of color as spouses and ladies. The presence of pretty lady in the sonnet drives the peruser to white lady since the all of models of magnificence lie in white lady.

Conclusion and Suggestion

There is conflict between white lady and individual of color who is appalling since she doesn't have the standards of excellence. From the clarification of the appropriate response of first issue, clearly dark women's liberation shows up in "Still I Rise".

Second issue detailing clarifies about mistreated person of color dependent on the survey of dark woman's rights history. The second issue will see these sonnets from the extent of dark women's liberation. "Still I Rise" is a sonnet about individuals of color who need to ascend from white individuals and individuals of color's abuse. In subjection time, white individuals who are the bosses need to own individuals of color as slave however many as could be allowed in light of the fact that they are modest, fool, ready to repeat, and can be treated as creatures. Individuals of color additionally make people of color endured; they do sexism and criticize people of color albeit people of color ought to be regular defenders of people of color.

With these realities, Maya Angelou needs herself and the other individuals of color to rise. Individuals of color rise battling against bondage, prejudice, what's more, sexism. Maya Angelou attempts to change this thought. She needs dark ladies to overlook the norm of excellence and be certain to call themselves magnificence since magnificence doesn't lay in the norm of excellence however it is in her certainty.

Regardless of how she will be, she is a delight lady as long as she is certainty. Maya Angelou expects Black ladies to act naturally with their sure way instead of adhering to the guideline of magnificence that has kept by White men, White ladies, and Black men. New comprehension of magnificence that has expressed by Maya Angelou would essentially adjust the sort of mirrors help up to Black ladies to pass judgment on Black ladies' excellence. Maya Angelou's "Still I Rise" give the plan to the people of color to improve to act something, to have new comprehension of reasoning,

furthermore, to be certain so they are not thought little of, and abused, and they have better daily routine to experience with the fairness in the general public.

REFERENCES

Angelou, Maya. *I Know Why Caged Bird Sing*. New York : Bantam, 1969.

Braxton, Joanne M. "Maya Angelou in Modern American Women Writers. Ed by Elaine Showalter. New York: Scribner"s,1991.

Collins, Patricia H. *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment* Second Edition. New York: Routledge, 2000.

Ghani, Mamuna and Bushra Naz. "Race, Feminism and Representation: An Inquiry into Maya Angelou"s Poetry". *International Research Journal of Arts & Humanities*. Vol. 35 (February 2004)

Griffiths, Jane. *John Skelton and Poetic Authority: Defining the Liberty to Speak*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2006.

Reaske, Christoper R. *How to Analyze Poetry*. New York: Monarch Press, 1974.

<http://www.nvo.com/hypoism/35maryangelousstillrise/> (13 August 2009).

<http://www.enotes.com/feminism-literature/angelou-maya> (11 June 2009).

<http://www.bookrags.com/essay-2006/1/10/22819/9998> (21 September 2009)

<http://web.mit.edu/activities/thistle/v9/9.01/6blackf.html> (11 June 2010)

<http://www.polity.co.uk/giddens5/students/glossary/default.asp> (11 June 2010)

<http://www.poetrypoetry.com/Workshops/00-07/RpWorkshop.html> (16 June 2010)

<http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/wlm/poor/> (!6 June 2010)